

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD - SENATE  
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## A HISTORY OF OUR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

Mr. GOLDWATER. Mr. President, in all of the current furor over the activities of the CIA and other intelligence gathering units, the accomplishments and history of our intelligence-gathering efforts have been badly overlooked. One would think from the much discussed efforts of certain members of the printed media and the transmitted media that intelligence gathering, including covert actions, is something relatively new in our history and that Americans have never engaged in it before the current efforts, which began about 1950.

Mr. William Colby, testifying before the Senate Select Committee To Study Governmental Operations With Respect

to Intelligence Activities, presented as an introduction to his discussion of this subject a brief history as to the extent of the activities in the intelligence field experienced by our country. This material has been downgraded and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

### INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

As the United States approaches its Bicentennial Year, Mr. Chairman, it seems fitting to note that the Founding Fathers had a lively appreciation of covert action as a foreign policy tool.

Two hundred years ago next month, the Continental Congress created our first intelligence service, the Committee of Secret Correspondence. Benjamin Franklin functioned in Paris as both intelligence collector and agent of influence in its behalf. Historians tell us that Franklin used all the tools of the intelligence profession in pursuing his mission in France—mail drops, ciphers, aliases, forged documents and mail interception. To prevent others from forging his correspondence, Franklin used his typographical ingenuity to produce a distinctive script type designed by himself. Franklin's agents established what may have been the first covert action proprietary company, HORTALEZ and Company, to acquire and ship French arms to America.

George Washington used a code number—"711"—and personally engaged in intelligence deception. In one covert deception operation he allowed the British to capture "secret" papers misdirecting the British forces to Manhattan, and away from our troops at Newberry saving American forces from defeat. And of course what we now call paramilitary advisers from abroad are heroes to the American people they helped free: Lafayette, von Steuben, Kosciuszko and others.

The first known American intelligence net was established by Paul Revere. Thirty persons were assigned the job of reporting on British troop movements in Boston and performing occasional sabotage. The members of this net were known as the "mechanics" because of their technical skills.

Paul Revere filed the first recorded covert action voucher with the Continental Congress for three pounds to cover the cost of printing one thousand impressions. Revere's accounting also asked for reimbursement of living and travel expenses for himself amounting to seven pounds. The House of Representatives reduced his per diem to four shillings a day and settled the bill in full on the 22nd of August 1775.

The Committee of Correspondence also had problems on the degree of secrecy and protection of sources and methods. On one occasion it refused to provide the Congress with secret information. At issue was a dispatch from Arthur Lee brought to the Committee by Thomas Story. The record of the Committee deliberations noted that considering the importance of the information, it was their "indispensable duty" to keep it secret, even from the Congress. The Committee noted that the Congress consisted of too many members to keep secrets. Later, on the 10th of May 1775, the Congress called on the Committee to lay their proceedings before it. An exception was made to this request, and the Committee was permitted to withhold the names of persons they employed or with whom they had corresponded.

It would appear that little has changed! Mr. Chairman, there are those today who question whether the United States should conduct covert action and, if so, under what rules and constraints. I welcome this opportunity for a serious and substantive discussion of covert action. I am particularly mindful that this issue is being examined against the backdrop of unprecedented public controversy over many of the Agency's past covert action operations. Nevertheless, I firmly believe that the full story of CIA covert action is a good story and one though which the Agency made a real contribution to the security of our country and the survival of democratic government in the world. I am also convinced that our Government should retain the option of employing covert action and that the responsibility for this mission is properly vested in the CIA.